Considerations on proposed post-2020 targets relating to wildlife use and trade from the Collaborative Partnership on Sustainable Wildlife Management (CPW)

The CPW considered potential targets relating to wildlife use and trade during its workshop in June 2019 on Sustainable Wildlife Management Beyond 2020, the report of which is available here: CBD/WG2020/1/INF/3.

Wildlife trade and use as an issue at the nexus of today's most pressing conservation and development concerns linked to human use of natural resources. The trade in wild animals and plants contributes to the livelihoods of hundreds of millions of people around the world and generates hundreds of billions of dollars of economic value annually. However, all too often, efforts to ensure this trade remains legal and at sustainable levels struggle to succeed. This jeopardises the status of species, ecosystems and the well-being of people who depend on wild resources for their livelihood.

Poaching, illegal logging, and other types of wildlife crime have been particularly severe in Asia, Africa and Latin America, where wildlife populations are under extreme pressure due to growing demand, particularly from markets in Asia. Well-known species such as elephants, rhinos and tigers remain at risk, with poaching for trade also threatening a wide variety of other fauna such as pangolins and many species of reptiles and birds. Not only terrestrial animal species are threatened by illegal activities, with a growing number of timber and other plant species, marine fish and other aquatic species also illegally targeted to supply markets including in Asia, North America, and Europe. As a result, over recent years the issue of wildlife trade has been brought to the forefront of global attention, at the highest level of government. In July 2015, the UN General Assembly adopted its first-ever Resolution on Tackling Illicit Trafficking in Wildlife (69/314). This was followed by numerous commitments on illegal wildlife trade being adopted by individual countries at the highest political levels, as well as co-operative strategies and plans to address illegal wildlife trade adopted by regional economic integration organisations and other regional bodies.

For many species, the impacts of illegal trade are compounded by legal but unsustainable trade linked to a **wider lack of good governance and effective management, as well as persistent and systemic corruption** in the area of natural resources management.

The Aichi Biodiversity Targets of the CBD's Strategic Plan to 2020 do not include a target specific to trade in wildlife, despite illegal and unsustainable trade being one of the key drivers of biodiversity loss, and sustainable, well-managed legal wildlife trade having the potential to provide benefits to all from biodiversity and ecosystem services. Selected Aichi Targets (for example Target 6 concerning fish and invertebrate stocks and aquatic plants), as well as targets within the CBD's Global Strategy for Plant Conservation, recognise and reflect on the importance of addressing illegal and unsustainable trade in species of wild flora and fauna.

While certain other Multilateral Environmental Agreements—in particular the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) and the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) — address elements of wildlife trade, a wider commitment under the umbrella of the global biodiversity framework is needed, including to provide the direct link to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the accompanying Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Targets has renewed policy attention on sustainable production and consumption (SDG 12) and sustainable use of marine and terrestrial ecosystems (SDGs 14 and 15), and provides a framework for measuring progress. Of specific direct relevance to illegal wildlife trade is SDG 15.7: *"Take urgent action to end poaching and trafficking of protected species of flora and fauna, and address both demand and supply of illegal wildlife products"*

Following the overall consensus by the CPW on the need for target(s) concerning wildlife use and trade, the following ideas for potential targets to include in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework emerged from discussions:

By 2030, legal use and trade of wild fauna and flora[1] at sustainable levels enhances the conservation of biodiversity and the benefits to human well-being (supporting current Strategic Goal D)

By 2030, the pressure of illegal and unsustainable use and trade of wild fauna and flora[2] is reduced, contributing to the conservation of biodiversity and human well-being (supporting current Strategic Goal B)

Following the definition of potential targets, a number of **measurable indicators** were also discussed. It was suggested that such indicators could **link to priority / key species indicative and representative of progress**.

Potential targets	**How to measure these targets? For example:**
By 2030, legal use and trade of wild fauna and flora at sustainable levels enhances the conservation of biodiversity and the benefits to human well-being	Robust traceability mechanisms are established for high risk wild species of fauna and flora in use and trade
	Species management plans are developed for key wild species of fauna and flora in use and trade
	For CITES-listed species of fauna and flora, increase in a number of Appendix I down-listings and decrease in CITES compliance interventions
	Best practice guidelines (e.g. FairWild Standard) are applied to trade in 50 priority wild plant value chains
	CBD voluntary guidance for a sustainable wild meat sector (Decision 14/7) is applied to selected key wildlife species in use and trade and by key tropical and sub-tropical countries
	Increase in the number of people benefitting from sustainable use and trade in species of wild fauna and flora
By 2030, the pressure of illegal and unsustainable use and trade of wild fauna and flora is reduced, contributing to the conservation of biodiversity and human well-being	Illegal trade in elephants, rhino, and tiger products reduced by 50%
	Illegal timber trade reduced by 50% from countries with significant illegal trade from high conservation value forests
	Risk of overexploitation reduced by 30% for “high risk” shark species in trade

Further work is required to refine the targets and measurable indicators, in particular to agree the level of ambition, as the current wording and examples given may not be ambitious enough to ‘bend the curve’.

It was also observed that **coordination is needed with the stakeholders leading on the development of a potential successor to Aichi Target 6 (sustainable fisheries)**; the intention being that the proposed targets above cover all species (aquatic as well as terrestrial) and therefore include fish and other commercially-exploited aquatic species.

Workshop participants discussed the available data sets that could support measurement of these targets (see Annex 3 of the workshop report), and observed that **further research is needed into the data sets available on the human benefits of wildlife use and trade.**

[1] Consider whether fungi should be included in the language of the potential targets.
[2] *Ibid.*

Potential post-2020 target on human-wildlife conflict (outcome of the IUCN SSC Human-Wildlife Conflict Task Force meeting, July 2019)

It was also recognized at the CPW workshop that separate target(s) may be recommended for addressing the issue of human-wildlife conflict. No specific recommendations were made during the workshop, but the language for **a potential post-2020 target on human-wildlife conflict** was subsequently discussed by the IUCN SSC Human-Wildlife Conflict Task Force at its meeting in July 2019, and is included below.

Potential target	**How to measure this target? For example:**
By 2030, human-wildlife conflicts (i.e. conflicts over wildlife, arising from negative impacts on livelihoods caused by wildlife, and associated retaliatory or preventative persecution of the blamed species) are reduced globally by 50%	A global study of the extent of HWC carried out in 2020 is repeated in 2030, showing a quantifiable reduction in HWC via several social, economic and ecological indicators
	Countries have detailed HWC management strategies and policies incorporated into their NBSAPs or other national policies
	Capacity among governments, NGOs, communities and other conservation actors to manage HWCs has increased significantly
	Resources directed towards HWC management has increased significantly, including a focus on planning for emerging HWCs
	IUCN Guidelines on HWC are widely accepted and followed as a guiding standard for effective HWC management by governments, NGOs and conservation professionals